

### Amendments to the Specification

Please make the following amendments to the Specification:

In the Background, please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 2 as follows:

The basic input/ output system (BIOS) is the lowest level software in a computer system and acts ~~and~~ acts as an interface between the hardware, e.g. the chip set and processor, and the operating system. The BIOS provides access to the system hardware and enables the creation of the higher-level operating systems (e.g., DOS, Windows) that are used to run software applications. The BIOS is also responsible for allowing control of the computer system's hardware settings, for booting up the machine, and various other system functions. For example, the BIOS may contain all the code required to control the keyboard, display screen, disk drives, serial communications, and a number of miscellaneous functions.

In the Brief Description of the Drawings, please amend the paragraphs beginning on page 4, line 11 as follows:

Figure 4 is a flow diagram illustrating ~~one exemplary~~ an embodiment for updating the BIOS for all nodes in a multi-node partitioned system; and

Figures 5a and 5b are flow diagrams illustrating ~~one exemplary~~ an embodiment for updating BIOS for all nodes in a multi-node partitioned system.

In the Detailed Description, please amend the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 27 as follows:

Alternatively, at step 215 of Figure 3, the user may elect to update the BIOS for all the nodes in the partitioned system, as shown at step 240. Accordingly, the BIOS update process continues as shown in the exemplary embodiment depicted in Figures 4, 5a and 5b at step 245. Figures 4, 5a and 5b show an exemplary embodiment of updating the BIOS of all of the nodes in an ~~aggregated~~ partitioned system. At step 250 of Figure 4, a SBSP is selected. At step 255, the flash BIOS is updated for only the single partitioned ~~nodes~~ node associated with the SBSP. As discussed above, the process for updating the BIOS for a single partitioned node is similar to the exemplary embodiment of the BIOS update process shown in Figures 2a and 2b.

In the Detailed Description, please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 7 as follows:

Once the BIOS update for this node is completed, an all node BIOS synchronization request signal is sent at step 260. The all node BIOS synchronization request may be sent to the embedded system management (ESM) subsystem or similar controller or application. In response to the all node BIOS synchronization request, the partitioned systems are all reset at step 265. Before ~~BIOS~~ SBSP gets control and initiates the BIOS update process, the system is temporarily configured into an aggregated system at step 270. The ESM or other suitable controller or application may perform this temporary configuration. Alternatively, the

SBSP may store the system partitioning mode information in a non-volatile memory location and then temporarily configure the system into a partitioned system. Once the system has been configured into an aggregated system, the SBSP updates the BIOS for the node in which the SBSP resides at step 275. Because the system is temporarily configured as an aggregated system, the SBSP may update the BIOS in accordance with the exemplary BIOS update process shown in Figure 2 and described above.